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CHARLESTOWN, *May* 27, 1789.

To the MEMBERS of the SOCIETY
for propagating the GOSPEL
among the INDIANS, and others,
in North-America.

INCORPORATED *by an ACT of this* COM-
MONWEALTH.



GENTLEMEN,

IT gives me a particular satisfaction, in having it in
my power to afford some assistance in carrying this
excellent design into execution, from the estate of the
late Hon. JOHN ALFORD, Esquire, deceased—who, in his
life-time, had this matter much at heart—as one of his
executors,

executors, by putting into your hands a considerable interest, part of the charity appropriated out of his estate to publick and private uses.

Col. ALFORD, when living, was often speaking and writing in favour of such a plan ; he was desirous the Aborigines should be both civilized and christianized ; that the Gospel should be sent into the dark, benighted parts of the land, and was always ready to contribute to this benevolent design, that such as set in darkness may come to the knowledge of the truth.

His abilities, his publick and private character, as a Christian and as a citizen, gained him the honour, esteem, and confidence of his country.

The interest lodged in my hands, out of his estate, made me desirous some attempt should be made ; accordingly in July, 1786, I requested the Rev. Mr. Daniel Little, of Wells, a worthy minister, and highly recommended, to go to the Indian tribe at Penobscot river, to instruct the said Indians in the knowledge of the Christian Religion, and their children in useful human literature. Having the countenance of his Excellency Governour BOWDOIN, I wrote them, and the inhabitants, as follows.

“ BRETHREN,

“ The Rev. Mr. Little comes as a Missionary among you, to promote your best good, by instructing you, and
your



your children. The difficulties he may go through, the cheerfulness with which he engages in this work, for your welfare, I wish may encourage you to receive him as your kind father and friend."

To my CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, *and* ENGLISH
INHABITANTS, *at* PENOBSCOT.

"I desire you will be so kind as to assist the Rev. Mr. Little in obtaining a knowledge of the general state of the Indians; he is a person much esteemed among us, and cheerfully undertakes this service to promote your welfare. When his time cannot be employed to the benefit of the Indians, he may be employed as a Missionary among you with acceptance and advantage. I hope his coming will be attended with a divine blessing.

I am, affectionately,

Your friend and servant,

RICHARD CARY."

Medford, July 1, 1786.

Mr. Little advised me of his arrival at Penobscot-Bay, Aug. 7, by a letter, of which the following is extracted—at the same time mentions the arrival of the Roman Catholic Missionary from New-York.

"Immediately

“Immediately after the Commissioners had quieted the Indians about their landed claims, I moved up to a small village of seven families, near the borders of Indian Old-Town, where I opened an English school, to which I invited the presence and attention of the Indians, as they were passing up the river from the treaty ; having, upon my first arrival in the river, communicated to their chief Sachem the benevolent design of my mission. The arrival of the French Priest at this juncture, and his officiating in his way among the Indians, prevented my access to them on religious subjects, as a publick teacher. I then invited him to my lodgings, and reasoned with him upon the advantages of a free English school, for the benefit of the Indians, abstracted from religious considerations, in hopes to avail myself of his influence. In about a fortnight after, he collected the Indians together near the uppermost branches of the river ; they dispersed soon after the treaty, to attend their wares and traps, and reported to me the result of their council, viz. That a small part of them were desirous to have their children taught the language and manners of the English, but all of them were apprehensive that their religion would be in danger ; wished to know why their children could not be taught to read and write by a master of their own religious persuasion.

“After finding the first object of my mission clouded by unforeseen occurrences and events, I spent the rest of
my

my time among the inhabitants down the river and bay of Penobscot, where my services were acceptable and I hope useful."

Mr. Little was on his mission about three months, and I believe did every thing in his power to answer the good purposes he went upon. He sent me a plan of Penobscot river, with the Indian boundaries.

Settled August 28, 1786.

The monies delivered into the hands of your Treasurer, with a schedule annexed, are eleven specie bonds, amounting to eleven hundred and fifty-two pounds, lawful money; three continental certificates for 2300 dollars, dated October, 1777; two continental certificates, dated February, 1779, for 800 dollars; one continental certificate, dated February, 1779, for 300 dollars; six consolidated notes of this state, for £.418-15-0 lawful money; a number of other certificates of a later date, estimated at a less value; J. Hardy's certificates for 920 dollars. Several years interest is due on some of the certificates, notes, and the bonds, which I have settled in the best manner in my power, considering the situation of publick affairs, and the changing scenes we have passed through.

Another donation given, which the executors thought of public utility, was fifty pounds sterling towards raising
a fund

a fund for the support of poor dissenting ministers widows and children, after their decease, who are at times reduced to difficult circumstances.

Three hundred and forty pounds, lawful money, has been bestowed in private charities to unfortunate persons, known to be such, and recommended by very respectable characters.

The institution of a new professorship, at Harvard College, of Natural Religion, Moral Philosophy, and Civil Polity, called by the name of ALFORD'S PROFESSOR, will, I doubt not, prove very beneficial to the publick ; sums of money for the support of it, have been lodged, at different times, in the hands of their Treasurers, and by a late settlement with Mr. Treasurer Storer, amounts, in specie, to £.1552-4-2 lawful money. The interest arising is £.93 per annum, which will soon be sufficient to answer the benevolent design. Under our excellent Constitution and national form of government, no wise man will be wanting in using his best endeavours for its support.

Lectures on publick virtue, by the Professor, to those under his care, inculcating the great advantage, as well as necessity of good laws, and having them duly executed, for the support of government and order, cannot but prove beneficial to the rising generation, and better qualify them for publick service.

A con-

A considerable interest, from this estate, has been sent, at different times, to the Treasurers of the College in New-Jersey (equal to what was given to the College in this vicinity) to be applied in a way the Governours and Directors of Nassau-Hall should think would be most serviceable to that society.

The worthy Founder of these charities, by his last will, appears to have been influenced by the noblest principles of action, that of promoting the glory of his Almighty Creator, the spiritual and temporal welfare of his fellow-creatures. His mind was known many years before his death, that he intended to leave a considerable part of his estate to pious and charitable uses. Having honoured me with his power to act, I have often heard him speak with concern of the state of the Indians, how gentlemen in England were at great expence in having the Gospel propagated among them, while we, in this country, were inattentive to this important concern.

With pleasure I deliver up this interest to your management and direction, being convinced, from your wisdom and judgment, nothing will be wanting, on your part, to carry this benevolent plan into execution. My advanced age and infirmities make it necessary.

Great difficulties have attended settling this estate ; the company's affairs were unsettled, and their books in great disorder. The agents, that had the care of the estate in
the

the Jerseys, were remis in their settlements ; several valuable tracts of land remained unfold. Other concerns called me twice to New-Jersey and Philadelphia ; once in the winter season ; my going was thought to be advantageous for the concern. I wish my abilities had been equal to the important trust reposed in me.

The publick being so much interested in the disposal of Col. Alford's estate, is an apology for my being so particular. Accounts of money received and paid away, with other matters relating to it, have been lodged in the Probate Office in Cambridge, to which I beg leave to refer any one who desires information, or an application to me will save that trouble.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for the honour done me in voting me into your respectable society. Be assured, I shall cheerfully give every assistance in my power to promote the interest of this benevolent undertaking, and am, with respectful regards,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obliged humble servant,

RICHARD CARY.

*To the Honourable OLIVER WENDELL,
Esquire, and the Members of the Society for
propagating the Gospel among the Indians in
the United States of North-America.*





*AT a meeting of the SOCIETY for propagating the GOSPEL
among the INDIANS, and others, in NORTH-AMERICA,
May 28, 1789.*

VOTED, That the Assistant Secretary, the Rev. Mr. ELIOT, and the Rev. Mr. HILYARD, be a committee to wait upon RICHARD CARY, Esq. and, in the name of this Society, to express their very great satisfaction in the idea, that the benevolent and truly Christian designs of the late Colonel ALFORD have been so faithfully seconded by his Executor; to return him the sincere thanks of the Society for his very liberal donation this day made to them, to enable them to effect the benevolent purposes of their institution; to assure him, that it shall be faithfully applied to the purposes for which it is given, and to express the wishes and prayers of the Society, that the blessing of those who are ready to perish may come upon him.

A true extract from the Minutes.

Attest.

PETER THACHER, *Assistant Secr'y.*



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